

For all Americans, it means lower cost, quality care, affordable care and choice. You can take your insurance with you when you change jobs. You won't go broke because of limits on yearly health care expenses. It means no copayments for routine preventive care like colonoscopies and mammograms.

You choose your doctor, you choose to change, you choose to stay the same. Choose a public plan, choose a private plan. It's time for Congress to get this done.

INFLATION IS COMING

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, when interest rates go up, the value of bonds go down. But this presents a dilemma for the newest and largest bondholder on Earth, the Federal Reserve.

With interest rates low, quantitative easing policies and record spending, inflation is coming. Normally, we would expect the Fed to raise interest rates to protect the value of our dollars from runaway inflation, but now that the Feds owe over \$1 trillion in bonds, an interest rate boost of only 70 basis points would trigger a loss of the entire \$51 billion of the Fed's remaining net capital.

Robert Eisenbeis, the former vice president for the Atlanta Fed, has highlighted this danger. With inflation coming, we do not want the losses that the Feds would have to their own holdings to stop them from doing what will be needed to protect us, and especially seniors, from next year's expected inflation.

MEDICARE CUTS WOULD IMPACT OUR SENIORS

(Mr. BOUSTANY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Director of the Congressional Budget Office stated that seniors with current private Medicare plans could see their benefits cut or costs increase under one of the health care overhaul proposals currently being debated. Many seniors, including more than 140,000 in my home State of Louisiana, depend on these Medicare benefits for their health care.

Far too often, patients in our current government-run programs lack real access to a doctor. Now, under congressional Democrats' plans, they would see their benefits cut or higher costs, according to CBO, the official scorekeeper for Congress.

We can do better. We can achieve commonsense solutions in a bipartisan way. But the current bills in Congress focus on where we disagree. House Republicans have put forward a commonsense plan to revitalize the American

health care system to lower costs for families and businesses and to improve quality.

Our plan puts patients first and their doctors back in control of health care decisions. Our plan makes health care affordable and more accessible with patients able to see their doctor of choice.

Let's work together to put the patient and doctor back in control of their health care destiny.

STOP FUNDING ACORN WITH TAXPAYER DOLLARS

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise again to fight on behalf of Kansans who are furious that ACORN, the political machine of President Obama, is being funneled millions of taxpayer dollars to carry out fraudulent and illegal activities.

It's no secret President Obama paid ACORN over \$800,000 to help him win the White House. For years, this organization has been funded by liberal Democrats, and they have used the money to promote voter fraud and tax fraud, along with other illegal activities.

Despite the dozens of ACORN voter fraud scandals and its 70 convicted members, ACORN receives an outrageous 40 percent of its funding from hardworking taxpayers. This must stop. That's why we are fighting to defund this political machine and prevent further abuse of taxpayer money.

In addition to taking away every single tax dollar ACORN receives, we should strip its tax-exempt status. That's why this week I am introducing a resolution calling for the IRS to stop giving ACORN special tax treatment.

Let's help stop ACORN from using its tax-exempt status to advance liberal political agendas filled with corruption. It's time for Congress to put an end to this fraudulent use of public tax dollars and start working to revive our economy and create jobs.

GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it's clear from town hall meetings held across the country that the American people are rejecting the Democrat plan for a government takeover of health care. The President and Democrats in Congress need to start over on their health care plan.

House Republicans have a plan for reform that expands access to affordable health care and gives families the freedom to choose the health care that fits their needs. It's time for the President and Democrats in Congress to begin working with Republicans on real solu-

tions to the challenges our country faces, including health care reform.

According to economic modeling by the President's own chief economic adviser, the business tax increases alone will destroy up to 5.5 million jobs. An independent analysis by the non-partisan Lewin Group found that as many as 114 million Americans could lose their current health insurance.

The Democrats' health care plan also includes harmful cuts to Medicare Advantage, and according to the Congressional Budget Office, will raise seniors' Medicare prescription drug premiums by 20 percent over the next decade.

Despite claims that reform will reduce health care costs, the Congressional Budget Office has said the Democrats' health care plan will actually increase government spending and increase our national debt. The last thing we need is a government takeover of health care.

HEALTH INSURANCE NEEDS TO BE AFFORDABLE

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk of health care. Last week I had the opportunity to speak and listen at a town hall meeting in Bella Vista, Arkansas. This retirement community voiced their concern that insurance needed to be much more affordable and that we should do away with preexisting conditions. They did not want this paid for, though, on the backs of seniors.

In the current proposal, \$500 billion is taken away from Medicare. They do this by decreasing or eliminating the subsidy on Advantage plans, so most seniors would lose this opportunity to help them. There would be less money to providers when, in the situation we have now, it's very difficult to even find a Medicare provider in some cases.

Again, it makes no sense, Mr. Speaker, to cut Medicare \$500 billion, increase the patient load by 30 percent, not provide any more doctors to take care of the people, and no more facilities. We need reform, but we need commonsense reform. We must not do something just for the sake of doing it.

LIVINGSTONE AND JOHNSON C. SMITH TO RENEW 117-YEAR RIVALRY

(Mr. WATT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, on December 27, 1892, the first college football game between two historically black institutions of higher education was played in Salisbury, North Carolina. On October 3, 2009, The Livingstone College and Johnson C. Smith University football teams will extend this 117-year rivalry in the 2009 Commemorative Classic football game.